

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Procedure for pressed joint connections of components ~~(such as plates, bolts, nuts, or similar elements)~~ with at least one plate,
 - a) in which a punch passing through a die opening of the base element of a die
 - b) - first, without transecting, the plate clinches it, and
 - b) - then, this deep-drawn plate material compresses, under plastic deformation of said material, between the punch and base surface of the die perpendicular to the axial direction ~~(H)~~, and counter to the force of elastically yielding wall sections of the die ,
 - e) - then, this deep-drawn plate material compresses, under plastic deformation of said material, between the punch and base surface of the die, perpendicular to the axial direction ~~(H)~~, and counter to the force of the elastically yielding wall sections of the die ,
 - d) - whereby this radially compressed plate material, in order to create a connection, undercuts the non-deep-drawn areas of the plate ,
wherein
 - e) - between the yielding wall sections of the die opening there are wall sections securely attached to the base element of the die and
 - f) - the yielding wall sections are displaceable to a surface running parallel to the displacement direction and pass uninterrupted to the base surface.
2. (Currently amended) Method, in particular, according to Claim 1,
wherein
 - g) the radial path of the yielding wall sections,
 - h) is rigidly limited to achieve a seal and consequent hardening of the compressed and crushed material,
 - i) upon traversing a predetermined distance.
3. (Previously presented) Method, according to Claim 1, wherein the limit of the radial path, viewed across the perimeter of the die, is variously modifiable, or varies in size such that various hardnesses can be achieved during cold forming.
4. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the punch at least that part inserted into the die opening remains as a "lost punch" in that the section inserted in the die opening remains in the insertion opening in a rivet-like and form-fit manner.

5. (Currently amended) Tool with punch and die for pressed joint connection or similar for the joining of components ~~(such as plates 3, bolts, nuts, or similar elements)~~ with at least one plate,

j) with a work opening (die opening) in the multi-part die,

k) with a plurality of outwardly yielding cladding sections (wall sections) arranged radially around the work opening of the die,

l) with a base surface of the die positioned opposite the end side of the punch, axially adjacent to the work opening,

which is provided on a base element,

~~in particular, for the performance of the method according to one of the previous claims~~ claim 1,

wherein

- along the perimeter of the work opening, between the cladding pieces, several cladding sections (7) are unyieldingly connected to the base element (one-piece), and that these cladding sections serve as radial guides for the yielding cladding pieces.

6. (Currently amended) Tool, according to Claim 5, wherein the radial path of the cladding pieces is limited (during the joining process of the die 5) by a fixed stop element.

7. (Previously presented) Tool, according to Claim 5 , wherein the stop element limiting the radial path is fixed (one-piece) to the base piece of the die.

8. (Previously presented) Tool, according to Claim 5, with a base surface of the base element facing the work opening functioning as support and radial guide for the cladding pieces.

9. (Previously presented) Tool, according to Claim 5, wherein the cladding pieces are stressed radially in the direction of the work opening by a spring load.

10. (Previously presented) Tool, according to Claim 9, wherein the facing walls forming the radial guide of a moveable cladding piece comprise two cladding sections parallel to one another.

11. (Previously presented) Tool, according to Claim 5, wherein the punch is a lost punch in the form of a rivet, nut, bolt, or similar element, designed to remain in place

upon completion of the joining, in either a form-fit or a force-fit manner in the deep-draw opening it created in the plate.

12. (Previously presented) Tool, in particular, according to Claim 11, wherein the rivet features an indentation on at least one of its end sides.

13. (Previously presented) Tool, according to Claim 11, wherein the material of the lost punch is harder than the plate material compressed during the joining process.

14. (Previously presented) Tool, according to Claim 11, wherein in the radial cladding surface of the lost punch a radial groove is provided for receiving the compressed material.

15. (Previously presented) Tool, according to Claim 11, wherein the punch exhibits an elevation on the base surface facing the end side.

16. (Previously presented) Tool, according Claim 5, wherein an open circular channel is located on the end side of the base surface of the base piece.

17. (Previously presented) Tool, according to Claim 5, wherein a central, symmetrical elevation is located on the base surface of the base piece.